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Agenda item 62

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Afghanistan, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Eritrea, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Vanuatu and Yemen: draft resolution

Moratorium on the export of anti-personnel land-mines

The General Assembly,

Recalling with satisfaction its resolution 48/75 of 16 December 1993, by which it, inter alia, called upon States to agree to a moratorium on the export of anti-personnel land-mines that pose grave dangers to civilian populations, and urged States to implement such a moratorium,

Noting that there are approximately 85 million or more anti-personnel land-mines in the ground throughout the world and that many thousands of such mines continue to be laid in an indiscriminate manner,

Expressing deep concern that anti-personnel land-mines kill or maim hundreds of people every week, mostly unarmed civilians, obstruct economic development and reconstruction and have other severe consequences, which include inhibiting the repatriation of refugees and the return of internally displaced persons,

Welcoming the programmes of assistance which exist for demining and humanitarian support for the victims of anti-personnel land-mines,

Gravely concerned with the suffering and casualties caused to non-combatants as a result of the proliferation, as well as the indiscriminate and irresponsible use, of anti-personnel land-mines,

Recognizing that States can move most effectively towards the ultimate goal of the eventual elimination of anti-personnel land-mines as viable and humane alternatives are developed,

Recalling with satisfaction the report of the Secretary-General 1/ concerning progress on the initiative in the aforementioned resolution,

Convinced that moratoriums by States exporting anti-personnel land-mines that pose grave dangers to civilian populations are important measures in helping reduce substantially the human and economic costs resulting from the use of such devices,

Noting with satisfaction that many States already have declared moratoriums on the export, transfer or sale of anti-personnel land-mines and related devices, with many of these moratoriums being declared as a result of the aforementioned resolution,

Believing that ongoing efforts to strengthen the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or To Have Indiscriminate Effects 2/ (the Convention on Conventional Weapons), particularly Protocol II, 3/ are an important part of the overall effort to address problems caused by anti-personnel land-mines,

Recalling with satisfaction its resolution 48/7 of 19 October 1993 calling for assistance in mine clearance,

1. Welcomes the moratoriums already declared by certain States on the export of anti-personnel land-mines;

2. Urges States that have not yet done so to declare such moratoriums at the earliest possible date;

1/ A/49/275.

2/ See The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, vol. 5:1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IX.4), appendix VII.

3/ Ibid., Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices.

3. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on steps taken by Member States to implement such moratoriums, and to submit it to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament";

4. Emphasizes the importance of the Convention on Conventional Weapons and its Protocols as the authoritative international instrument governing the responsible use of anti-personnel land-mines and related devices;

5. Urges States which have not done so to adhere to this Convention and its Protocols;

6. Encourages further international efforts to seek solutions to the problems caused by anti-personnel land-mines, with a view towards the eventual elimination of anti-personnel land-mines.